

party logistics partner, processing through customs and Kuwaiti security isn't your everyday transportation action. This was their third convoy, but for DDKS it will become routine. After getting about six hours of sleep, they were eagerly back at work to help with the processing. Johnnie said "It went well. We are learning as we go and are establishing the procedures and practices so that when the permanent employees arrive, we will have laid the foundation for them to build on."

Chuck Personneus of DDSP and former Marine finds the assignment as something he was "meant to do, having served in the first Gulf War."

LTC Clay Newton, USA, DDC J-5 Strategic Planner, has also served with the Magnificent Seven. "The volunteers have been amazing. They stepped out of their areas of expertise, tackling challenges outside their skills sets, and have performed exceptionally well. Each day at DDKS brings new challenges—both expected and unexpected. These volunteers know they are doing work that makes a difference and that they are making DDC history at the same time."

In regards to being in Kuwait, a popular theme resonates from the employees' stories. They all say that they knew tent living was a possibility but they weren't really expecting that reality. Even with the absence of familiar comforts, things are looking up with the arrival of the incoming DDKS Commander, COL Gloria Blake, USA. Her first action was to get the group moved out of Camp Arifjan and into the local Hilton – with a swimming pool and beach.

Wayne Galloway, a Warehouse Supervisor from DDSP, is the acting DDKS Deputy Commander. He's used to challenges from tackling the huge workload at DDSP and working new initiatives, so he thought DDKS would be a new challenge. Learning to work through a foreign third party logistics provider and overcoming cultural differences have really tested his leadership skills. While tent living is also not his preference, he offered that work keeps him so busy that he is only there to sleep, but will certainly enjoy the Hilton. **Newland from DDDE and Chuck**

DDC Deactivates Forward Stocking Site in Bahrain

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

After nearly two years of providing front-line support to the Warfighter, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) closed the distribution operation in Bahrain known as DDZZ.

The materiel and distribution function from DDZZ was transferred to the newly-activated Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia (DDKS), a permanent and more robust operation supporting military customers in the Middle East.

DDZZ was established in December 2002 to support American and Coalition Forces fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

DDZZ stocked only 35 items—all heavy construction material like lumber, fencing, barbed wire and bastions—used mainly for force protection. By shipping these cumbersome and heavy items by sea to DDZZ in 2002, DLA and DDC were able to avoid more than \$50 million dollars in air transportation costs. Also, customer wait time was dramatically reduced by having the materiel pre-stocked close to the Warfighter.

Harry Tostado, a DDZZ supervisor who was deployed from the Tracy, CA location of Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC), was responsible for closing down operations at DDZZ with the help of mission partners Danish Camp Supply, the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's 831st, the Navy Regional Contracting Center, Mapping



Although DDZZ only carried 35 items, more than 5,000 containers of materiel were received during the two years of operation. Materiel was stored by single national stock numbers in 20-foot seavan containers.

Supply Center Philadelphia, and personnel from DDKS led by COL Gloria Blake, USA, DDKS Commander.

Tostado said that being the last man out the door at DDZZ was an emotional experience. "As I turned out the lights and pulled the door closed for the last time, so

many memories went through my mind. I recalled the images I saw in 'Tent City' at Camp Arifjan and Camp Doha—the Warfighters were loaded with backpacks and gear in the sweltering heat and sandstorms. Despite the conditions, there were no complaints to be heard.

I remembered the 'thank you' from a Lieutenant in Iraq who was grateful for the shipment of lumber just received from

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—DDZZ Supervisor Harry Tostado who was deployed from DDJC

Support Office - Bahrain, Bahrain Port Operations, Class IV (heavy construction equipment) item managers from Defense

us so they could build and sustain a better quality of life. I'll never forget the dedication of my crew and the friendships made in

Below is a list of personnel deployed to DDZZ to support DDC's first combat theater distribution platform. Thanks for a job well done!

*Donald Abrams, DDPW
Walter Bostdorf, DDC
Roberta Campbell, DDOO
Richard Chabot, DDC
Fred Clary, DDJC
Delta Clemmons, DDC
Terry Day, DDOO
Wilbur Dukes, DDPW
LTC (P) Robert Guarino, USA, DDC
John Hankins, DDDE
Donald Hernandez, DDJC*

*Charles Holder, DDRT
Richard Johnson, DDC
Col Bernard LeVan, USAR, DDC
Gilberto Martinez, DDCT
Linda Norman, DDC
CAPT (Sel) Dan Palko, SC, USN, DDC
Hector Segarra, DDSP
Darrell Smith, DDJC
Greg Stephens, DDDE
Harry Tostado, DDJC*

Bahrain. Seeing firsthand the culture and quality of life for most workers in Bahrain gave me more reason to appreciate living in America.”

CAPT (Sel) Dan Palko, SC, USN, the first commander of DDZZ, gave perspective on how DDZZ began. “This project was our first attempt to stand up a distribution operation in Southwest Asia, and the demand for our services was strong—DDZZ received more than 5,000 containers of materiel and what was left to send to DDKS at deactivation filled only 600 containers.”

DDKS, activated in August 2004, has a diverse stock of nearly 7,000 items with the potential of adding tens of thousands more in the future. Although DDKS will be

a permanent operation, CAPT (Sel) Palko explained that Kuwait will not be the final home of DDC’s Southwest Asia theater distribution platform. “DDKS is a permanent depot in a temporary location,” he said. CAPT (Sel) Palko is also a Logistics and Joint Planning Officer in DDC’s Strategic Plans directorate—the area responsible for locating future DDC sites. “Bahrain is a more suitable location for a distribution center in this region, allowing easy access to receive and distribute materiel to the Warfighters, so we are in the planning stages of building a permanent Southwest Asia distribution center in Bahrain.”

The current plan for DDC is to return the Southwest Asian distribution operation to Bahrain within the next five years.

superior support. “Repair parts were ordered on Monday and delivered that night,” said COL (P) Lally, “and a great amount of people in this room have had a tremendous influence on that success.”

He then gave the employees an update on DDC’s future goals. At the top of the list: improve overseas support. COL (P) Lally also noted the importance of the roll out of the Business Systems Modernization program, a feat he referred to as “critical to the success of DLA and DDC.” He also reinforced the idea that we must do whatever we can to make the distribution process even better for our customers. This includes working with the U.S. Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) to look at the supply chain from end to end and find ways to improve the process. “Before, we all looked at the supply chain as separate segments, now we look at it as one and we are working together to find what works best.”

COL (P) Lally closed by reminding employees that “it is important to provide timely and quality support, in peace and war through an efficient and innovative distribution system by maintaining a trained and ready organization.”

DDC’s Bostdorf Receives Superior Civilian Service Award

DDC General Supply Specialist Walter Bostdorf was recognized by DDC Commander COL (P) Mike Lally, USA, at the DDC Town Hall for his contributions as a Materiel Distribution Specialist for the DLA Contingency Support Team in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where his theater-level logistical support to nearly 200,000 multi-national coalition armed forces significantly contributed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Walt’s efforts were critical to the success of this operation,” said COL (P) Lally.



DDC Commander Holds First Town Hall with DDC HQ Staff

COL (P) Mike Lally, USA, DDC’s new commander, held his first town hall meeting with DDC headquarters staff in November.

More than 200 DDC headquarters employees attended the event that opened with a presentation of commander’s coins and other awards as COL (P) Lally set the tone for a meeting that not only updated employees on current and future DDC initiatives, but also congratulated them for their recent efforts and successes in support of the Warfighter.

The successes of existing overseas distribution sites providing forward support were also recognized by COL (P) Lally who referenced the outstanding customer service provided by Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy (DDSI) that was activated in April; Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ); Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (DDPH); and Defense Distribution Depot Europe (DDDE). To illustrate one example of the success of these sites, COL (P) Lally told the group about a recent e-mail received from the Chief of the Army Distribution Management Team who commended DDDE for their



COL (P) Lally thanked employees for their hard work and dedication in support of America’s Warfighters.